(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only surplus, unserviceable and absolete Air Force equipments|items are offered for disposal. Disposal is only through the Special Surplus Stores Disposal Committee set up by the Ministry of Defence. All the equipments/items, mentioned in the news-item for disposal, are obsolete and unserviceable and cannot be utilised further. All sales of such Defence equipment to other countries is regulated as per laid down policy of the Government.

Plans to match F-16 bombers

6965. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI G. G. SWELL:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRI MOHD. MASUD KHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that F-16 bombers are matched by MIG-29 fighter and the French Mirage-2000;

(b) what are the characteristics of the above planes, their combat or defence attributes, cost per plane, and efficiency;

(c) whether Pakistan and India have any of the above planes, if so, their numbers; and

(d) what is the defence mechanism against these planes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) Though, it is not possible to match an aircraft with another on each attribute, F-16, MIG-29 and Mirage-2000 aircraft are fairly well matched in 'Air Defence' role. While F-16 and Mirage-2000 are multirole aircraft, MIG-29 is optimised for Air Defence Role. The price paid in 1989 for a MIG-29 aircraft was about Rs. 24 crores. For the Mirage-2000 aircraft, the price paid in 1988 was about Rs. 31 crores. Pakistan has F-16 aircraft in its inventory. The present Air Defence system comprises Radars, mobile observation flights, Surface to Air Guided weapons and interceptor aircraft. It will not be desirable to disclose the numbers in each type of aircraft held in the IAF inventory.

Beating up of Cops by Army Officers

6966. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated the 19th April, 1994 under the caption "Army Officers beat up Cops"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An inquiry into the incident has been ordered.

Test Flight of Lakshya

6967. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the user evaluation tests of the indigenously developed pilotless target aircraft, "Lakshya" have been successfully concluded; and

(b) if so, when the same will enter the produciton stage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Four user evaluation flight-tests of indigenously developed Pilotless Target Aircraft—"Lakshya" were successfully carried out during 11 to 17 April 1994 at Interim Test Range, Balasore. The main objectives of these trials were performance demonstration, re-usability, weapon engagement by Air Force & Army, miss-distance scoring and land recovery demonstration. Satisfactory performance was obtained with regard to these objectives.

(b) Firm orders for "Lakshya" for initial quantities are expected from Services around and 1994, after which a limited series production would be undertaken. Deliveries would commence 24 months after placement of orders. HAL has been designated as the nodal production agency for "Lakshya". Bulk production is expected to follow when the transfer of technology phase is completed.

Implementation of Manual Commission's recommendations in Defence services

6968. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:
SHRI J. S. RAJU:
SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the norms of Mandal Commission for reservation to backward communities and most backward communities are being followed in defence selections and appointments; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to evolve schemes to implement the said norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Recruitment to the Armed Forces is open to all Indian nationals irrespective of caste, creed, community, religion or region. The endeavour has been to provide free and equal opportunity to all sections of the population to join the Armed Forces and render service in accordance with the ideals of secularism, democracy and social justice.

In order to maintain the highest standards of operational efficiency, appointments and selections to the Armed Forces have been made strictly on merit and no reservation on the basis of caste, community, religion, area or class is laid down.

Cadre review in MES

6969. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cadres where they have not been reviewed or where reviewed, action has not been taken on the recommendation;

(b) whether no cadre review has been made so far in the clerical cadre of MES and the staff of the MES are on agitation for a long time; and

(c) the steps taken to carry out cadre reviews in all the cadres expeditiously and on the recommendations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There are multitude of cadres under Ministry of Defence. Since many cadre authorities were not fulfilling the conditions of 10 per cent cut in strength, functional justification and full matching savings for cadre review, acceptable cadre review proposals could not be initiated by them. Wherever these conditions are fulfilled, further action of examination of the cadre review recommendations on merit is undertaken in the Ministry and orders passed accordingly.

(b) The initial cadre review proposal of MES clerical cadre was examined and found to involve repercussions in other Departments since clerical cadre is a common category MES authorities have accordingly submitted fresh proposals.